

First Reading **Acts 4: 32-35**
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting

Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,
but not doomed to die. **(R.)**

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Jn 5:1-6**
A reading from the first letter of St John.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Jn 20:29**

Alleluia, alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel **Jn 20:19-31**
The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Thomas the Doubter seeing the wounds

The true believers in the Risen Christ kept Thomas the Doubter within their circle, rather than expelling him. This gave him a further opportunity to experience the very Real Presence of the Risen Lord and his gift of peace. Companionable patience is our best response to those struggling with belief in even fundamental tenets of the faith.

Thomas saw that the wounds of Christ were still present, not obliterated. Does this suggest that our redeemed bodies will bear the marks of the wounds unjustly inflicted on us? However, they will not be disabling to our personality because they will be incorporated into the resurrection life of Christ. Incredibly, our self-inflicted wounds, i.e. our sins, will be obliterated in the mercy of God.

Pope Francis emphasises that it was in responding to the invitation to touch the wounds of Christ that Thomas understood Christ's true identity, exclaiming: 'My Lord and my God'. It is only by touching the wounds of Christ in many different people in many different situations that we can authentically make the same act of faith.

We could take a moment to pray for the strength to touch the wounds of Christ in others, 'the least'. And we could pray that, wounded as we may be by the vagaries and injustices of life, we may be liberated from their evil effects as the Risen Lord adopts our wounds as his own.

Prayer Requests

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Second Sunday of Easter – Year B

1st Reading: Acts 4:32-35

2nd Reading: 1 Jn 5:1-6

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31



Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Janice Haines, Austin Hoffman, Helen Conlin, Anne Standing, Gloria Trunk, Lorraine Winter, Jane Winsor O'Keefe and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Barbara Jones, Julia Tope. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptisms: Temperance Hammond and Oliver Hartcher (St Brigid's, Saturday). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Marriages: Timothy Voigt and Katie Shearer (10 April St Patrick's) and Wilyen Aguino and Thi Kieu Nga Le (11 April St Patrick's). **What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.**

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Parish Contacts

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Assistant Priest	Fr Anthony Coloma	Presbytery: 6578 9650	Email: anthony.coloma@mn.catholic.org.au
Parish Secretary	Mrs Erica Janssen	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au Web: www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au
Facebook	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton		YouTube Twitter singletonbranxton @parish_sb
St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
Singleton	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	Contact: 02 5507 4048
Broke	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299
Glendon Brook	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	Contact: 6577 6168
St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
Branxton	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i>	Station St, Branxton 2335	Contact: 0407 381 525
Greta	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i>	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	Contact: 0428 485 025

Schools in our Parishes

St. Catherine's Catholic College	Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School	Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	Director: Ms Amy Hunter	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Natalie James	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

Mass Roster Sunday 18 April 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 6pm	Counters
Welcomer	L Sneesby Tooth	D & J Clarke	J Walker C Crow	R James R Gee		
Commentator		M Ingold	G Cattermole	N Marzol		
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	D Clarke	D Thompson C Spiteri	T Evans T Cochrane	Gresham Family	
Prayers		M Ingold	J Cox	B Drayton	E Hand	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	K Jones K Jones	J Gorczyca				
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion						NO Ministers of Communion are required.

Faithful and compassionate God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy; hear the prayers we offer, that in the particular ministry to which you have called us, may we serve you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12 April	13 April <i>St Martin</i>	14 April	15 April	16 April	17 April	18 April THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Mercy Home	9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		5.30pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.00am Mass St Catherine's Greta

St Brigid, St Catherine, St Patrick, and St Paul – pray for us

Weekly Notices

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

We welcome visitors from all faith communities to our Parish Mass. If you are new members of our Parish we ask that you take a Welcome Pack from the back of the church, complete and return the Member forms and one of our welcoming team will contact you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Wonnarua people, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of trust.

Our Churches Are COVID Safe

Our churches are registered COVID Safe businesses with NSW Health. A copy of the COVID-19 Safety Plan is on the noticeboard for you to read with our conditions of entry. We thank you for your assistance in complying with these conditions and in turn keeping our community safe and free from the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In accordance with the Public Health Order, public Mass, baptisms, funerals and weddings can be celebrated with a maximum of 160 people in St Patrick's Church, Singleton, 150 people St Brigid's Church, Branxton and 90 people in St Catherine's Church, Greta.

Please stay home and get tested if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms (even if they are mild):

- Fever (37.5° or higher)
- cough
- sore/scratchy throat
- shortness of breath
- loss of smell
- or loss of taste



HAVE YOU CHECKED IN? Please ensure you have your name on the registration list or used the QR code to check-in today!

Office Hours over Easter

The Parish Office will be closed from 3pm Holy Thursday (1 April) and re-open on Tuesday 13 April at 9am.

2021 Sacramental Program

The Parishes are pleased to announce that the Sacramental Program will be continuing in 2021. Changes to the format have been made to ensure physical distancing restrictions are met.

BRANXTON PARISH: All children in year 3 or above who are interested in receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion are asked to **contact the Parish Office to register**. The Program classes will commence in the week of Tuesday 20 April.

SINGLETON PARISH: All children in year 3 or above who are interested in receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion are asked to **contact the Parish Office to register their interest** in the program which will commence in Term 2 with an info meeting on Weds 21 April.

St Patrick's Parish Raffle

A raffle is being run in St Patrick's Parish Singleton to raise funds for a catcher for the ride-on mower. Tickets are \$2.00 each and available from Julie Dries at Mass. 1st prize is a \$150 fuel voucher and 2nd prize is a \$75 fuel voucher. Raffle will be drawn on Mother's Day.

St Patrick's Anniversary First Mass

The First Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 10 April 2021 at 9.20am to remember Joyce Ryan.

Senior Singles Lunch

The Senior Singles Group will meet for lunch on Tuesday 13 April 2021 at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant, Singleton.

Adoration for Divine Mercy Sunday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held in St Patrick's Church Singleton on Sunday 11 April from 2-4.30pm for Divine Mercy Sunday.

St Patrick's Women's Guild AGM

The St Patrick's Women's Guild will hold their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 14 April 2021 at 1.30pm in the home of Elaine Thomas, 14 Henry Drive, Singleton.

Happy Easter from Caritas Australia

Thank you for supporting us this year as we demonstrate how love and compassion for our global community can transform lives. You have responded to St. Oscar Romero's invitation to "Be More," putting your compassion into action to support some of the world's most vulnerable communities. By aspiring to be more, you have helped change lives. **Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2021 Lenten appeal.** Please return your boxes to the churches next week. If you required a tax receipt, please ensure you have completed the details on the flap inside the box.

St Patrick's Cemetery Queen Street – Plot for Sale

Owners of a plot in the Queen Street Cemetery monumental section are wishing to sell their reservation. If you are interested in a plot in the monumental section next to the school fence, please contact the Parish Office on 02 5507 4048.

Social Justice Art Workshop

The Social Justice 2020-2021 Statement, **To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today**, provides the opportunity to better understand mental illness and how as social beings we need the bonds of family, friends, and the broader community to celebrate the joys and hopes of life.

Please join us for a day of prayer, reflection and art making at the Parish Office in Cambridge St on Thursday 29 April from 9.30am-2.30pm. \$10 cost covers all art materials used on the day. Participants will need to bring their own lunch on the day. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/social-justice-art-workshop-tickets-145391039513>

Mass Changes at the end of Daylight Savings Time



Daylight Savings Time will end at 3am on Sunday 4 April. Singleton Parish evening Mass have changed to 5pm from Tuesday 6 April 2021. This includes Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday evening, Broke and Glendonbrook masses. **Branxton Vigil Mass will NOT change.**

Mass Cancellations from 27 to 29 April 2021

The Clergy and Parish Leaders of the Diocese are holding the annual Parish Leadership In-service Days and the Parish Leadership/Principals' Day from the 27th to the 29th of April 2021. These events form part of their mandated on-going professional development as servant-leaders for the Diocese. Thus, the regular scheduled masses in Branxton, Greta and Singleton are cancelled on the said dates.



Thomas had doubts about Jesus being alive. He wanted to see Jesus' hands and side before he would believe that Jesus had come back to life. Re-arrange the tiles to discover the important message Jesus gave to Thomas.

me and yet	they believe.	those who h	Blessed are	ave not seen

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

My Lord and my God

This extraordinarily clear statement of belief about the divinity of Jesus appears nowhere else in any of the four gospels. Why does the Gospel of John make this statement and not any of the other gospels? It must be remembered that the Gospel of John was the last of the four gospels to be written – at least 20 years after the Gospel of Mark and some 60 to 70 years after the death of Jesus. The early Christians had been cast out of the Jewish tradition and were making sense of how their own beliefs could stand apart from Jewish tradition. With the break from Judaism, Christians felt able to express their developing belief that Jesus was God.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Not an ending?

The final two verses of this gospel passage (Jn 20:30-31) read like the conclusion to the whole gospel. They are a statement of finality about the purpose for writing the gospel and something of a blessing for those who read it. Yet, surprisingly, there is another whole chapter that follows this passage that deals with still more post-resurrection appearances. Most scripture scholars believe that the end of Chapter 20 was the original ending of the gospel and that Chapter 21 is a later addition – possibly added by the community for whom the gospel was originally written.

Have you thought?

Those who have not seen

Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we - Blessed are we - who have not seen and yet still believe!

Let's Stay COVID Safe

1. Check in using the Service NSW **QR CODE** or Registration sheet.
2. Show the Welcomer the **GREEN** tick screen.
3. **SANITISE** your hands. **WAVE** instead of shaking hands.
4. Collect a bulletin and **TAKE IT** with you.
5. Maintain **1.5M** physical distancing from those not in your household.
6. During the Communion Procession, please form **ONE** line, with those on the left side of the celebrant to process **FIRST**.

